

*\$6 Million from Federal Recovery Act to Complete Project & Help Reduce Traffic Congestion*

(Washington, D.C.) -U.S. Representative Chet Edwards was in Brazos County Monday November 2nd to break ground on construction for the overpass on State Highway 6 over Barron Road in College Station. Edwards was joined by County Judge Randy Sims, and College Station Mayor Ben White. In March, Edwards announced that federal economic recovery funding had been awarded to complete the needed interchange improvements.

"These improvements will help ease traffic congestion, and improve safety and quality of life for Brazos Valley families while creating 45 local jobs" said Edwards.

The Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will contribute nearly \$6 million it has received in federal economic recovery funds to complete construction at SH6 and Barron Road. This follows \$2.4 million in federal congressional appropriations Edwards has secured since 2005 for the project. Approximately \$3 million in taxpayer dollars will be saved because construction costs came in below initial projections.

In 2005, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) converted the SH 6 frontage roads to one-way operation in south College Station. While this conversion was necessary to address critical safety concerns, the majority of traffic from the Barron Road area must now use local streets to go northbound, significantly increasing congestion. This interchange will provide an opportunity for northbound traffic to use SH 6 and reduce excessive traffic volume.